7-23-96
10:45 pm

DEAR HAROLD

ENCLOSED FIND COPY OF NEWSPAPER CLIP. I TOLD YOU ABOUT. THIS JUDGE IN THE CLIP IS FROM MADERA CALIF. WHICH IS ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTH OF MY HOME. ALSO A QUESTION. DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHT WHERE I COULD GET HOLD OF RIFLE EXACLY LIKE OSWALDS. I HAVE LOOKED BUT SO FAR NO CAN FIND. ANOTHER QUESTION YOUR OPION OF THIS FELLOW JAMES E. FILES. WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN THE SHOOTER ON THE GRASSY KNOLL. I HAVE A TAPE-VIDEO OF HIS CONFESSION HE MADE TO ~~A~~ A LAWYER AT JOLIET STATE PEN IN 1994. HE ALSO CLAIMS IT WAS A MOB HIT. OTHER SHOOTER ON ROOF OF DAL-TEX BUILDING. CLAIMS OSWALDS JOB WAS TO SHOW THIS GUY AROUND DALLAS STREETS ETC. FOR GETTA WAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT LET ME KNOW, I WILL SENT IT TO YOU. WELL GOTTA CLOSE. HOPE YOU AND C.L. OK'

BILL

Judge's request for

By Bob Egelko
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A California judge's pursuit of any existing CIA records on a man who allegedly claimed connections to both the spy agency and the John F. Kennedy assassination was rejected Monday by a federal appeals court.

The CIA's legal duty to "protect intelligence sources and methods" entitles it to withhold information on the names of present and past employees, said the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

David Minier, a Madera County Municipal Court judge, sued the CIA as a private citizen after the agency took no action on his records request for more than two years. Minier, best known as the district attorney who prosecuted the 1976 kidnapping of 26 Chowchilla schoolchildren and their bus driver, wanted to know whether a man named Claude Barnes Capehart had ever been a CIA agent.

According to Minier, Capehart, who started a well-drilling business in Chowchilla in the 1970s, told a police sergeant he had once worked for the CIA.

A former girlfriend of Capehart, quoted by Minier, told police much more: that Capehart had told her he was in the Texas School Book Depository in November 1963 when someone other than Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy; that Capehart had shown her guns and false passports, and that she recognized Capehart among photographs of possible conspirators being sought by a House committee on the assassination.

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